

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
OMB-01 CU-04 /066 W  
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P 210420Z FEB 78  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9921  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT CH  
SUBJ: "SPECIAL COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE SPELLS OUT ROLE OF OLD CADRES

1. SUMMARY. THE FEB 91 PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LONG "SPECIAL COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE SPELLING OUT THE ROLE AND OBLIGATIONS OF VETERAN CADRES. PUBLISHED A WEEK BEFORE THE ANNOUNCED OPENING OF THE 5TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, THE ARTICLE CAN BE READ AS A FORECAST OF NPC RESULTS. THE "SPECIAL COMMENTATOR" IS ANONYMOUS, BUT THE ARTICLE MIGHT WELL HAVE CARRIED THE BYLINE YEH CHIEN-YING. THE ARTICLE TWICE CITES YEH BY NAME, AND ITS MODERATE TONE AND CONTENT REFLECT THE POLITICAL STANCE WIDELY ASSOCIATED WITH HIM: REVERENCE FOR MAO'S MEMORY, LAYING ASIDE OF FACTIONAL GRIEVANCES AND VENDETTAS, AND ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER TO A SUCCESSOR GENERATION. WHILE MUCH OF THE ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO PRAISE OF VETERAN CADRES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TRADITIONAL WORK STYLE, THIS IS PRELUDE TO COUNSEL WHICH MIGHT BE LESS PALATABLE TO SOME: THE AGED, TIRED AND FRAIL MUST RELINQUISH

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THEIR POSTS TO YOUNGER LEADERS; VETERAN CADRES MUST ADAPT TO THE PRESENT OR LOSE THE RESPECT AND SUPPORT OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION; AND THOSE NOW IN THE ASCENDANCY MUST GUARD AGAINST ARROGANCE, RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN SHORTCOMINGS, AND REFRAIN FROM DIVISIVE ATTACKS AGAINST OLD ADVERSARIES. AMIDST THE APPEALS FOR CONCILIATION AND COMPROMISE THERE ARE A FEW VEILED WARNINGS TO POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS OF THE "WIND FACTION" VARIETY. BUT

EVEN HERE ONE FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF INTENT TO LAUNCH AN ASSAULT AGAINST SUCH PERSONS WHO ARE STILL IN POWER. APPARENTLY WRITTEN BY AN OLD CADRE, INDUBITABLY ADDRESSED TO VETERAN CADRES, REplete WITH EVIDENCE OF THE POWER CURRENTLY WIELDED BY THE VETERAN CADRE GENERATION, THE ARTICLE GIVES ONLY PASSING MENTION TO "MIDDLE-AGED" PARTY CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FEBRUARY 19 PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHES AN EXCEPTIONALLY LONG ARTICLE BY A /SPECIALLY INVITED COMMENTATOR" WHICH SPELLS OUT THE ROLE AND OBLIGATIONS OF VETERAN CADRES. PUBLISHED A WEEK BEFORE THE ANNOUNCED OPENING OF THE 5TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, THE ARTICLE CAN BE READ AS A FORECAST OF NPC RESULTS. THE MEASURED TONE OF THE PIECE SUGGESTS STRONGLY THAT, RECENT POLEMICS INITIATED BY THE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY NOTWITHSTANDING, THE NPC WILL BE, AS LEAST SUPERFICIALLY, A CONGRESS OF UNITY. VETERAN CADRES WILL RETAIN MOST OF THE POWER; NO MAJOR PURGES WILL BE CARRIED OUT; AND YOUNGER LEADERS WILL WIN A FEW PROMOTIONS. THE EXISTING BALANCE OF POLITICAL POWER WILL PROBABLY BE PRESERVED THROUGH THE CONGRESS.

3. THE "SPECIAL COMMENTATOR" IS ANONYMOUS, BUT THE ARTICLE MIGHT WELL HAVE CARRIED THE BYLINE CHIEN-YING. THE VENERABLE YEH IS TWICE CITED BY NAME, CALLING ON THE OLDER GENERATION TO TRANSMIT ITS KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITIONS TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION AND WELCOMING, POETICALLY, THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW GENERATION OVERTAKING HIS OWN. THE MODERATE TONE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTENT OF THE ARTICLE CONSISTENTLY REFLECT THE POLITICAL STANCE ASSOCIATED WITH YEH DURING THE PAST 18 MONTHS: REVERENCE FOR MAO'S MEMORY, LAYING ASIDE OF FACTIONAL GRIEVANCES AND VENDETTAS, AND ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER TO A SUCCESSOR GENERATION.

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
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P 210420Z FEB 78  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9922  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY  
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4. MUCH OF THE ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO PRAISE FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF VETERAN CADRES AND A DISTILLATION OF THE TRADITIONAL WORK STYLE WHICH MUST BE PASSED ALONG TO THE SUCCESSOR GENERATION. WITH A BOW TO VICE CHAIRMAN TENG HSIAO-PING, THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT "THE BASIC PREREQUISITE FOR A COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER IS TO BE AN HONEST PERSON, TO SPEAK THE TRUTH, AND TO MANAGE AFFAIRS HONESTLY" -- ESPECIALLY WHEN "CERTAIN OF OUR CADRES" ARE STILL "POISONED" BY FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE A SITUATION, SUBJECTIVITY, AND ACTING FALSELY. IT ALSO INSISTS ON TRANSMITTAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC WORK STYLE; THE SPIRIT OF MODESTY, PRUDENCE AND ARDUOUS STRUGGLE; AND AN ATTITUDE OF WHOLEHEARTEDLY SERVING THE PEOPLE.

5. BUT THIS PRAISE IS PRELUDE TO COUNSEL WHICH MUST CERTAINLY BE LESS PALATABLE TO SOME VETERAN CADRES:  
--THE AGED, THE TIRED, AND THE FRAIL -- THOSE WHO "GENUINELY" ARE UNABLE TO PERFORM DAILY TASKS -- MUST BE PREPARED TO RELINQUISH THEIR POSTS TO YOUNGER LEADERS, TO BE "BACKBENCHERS," ASSISTANTS, AND ADVISORS. "IN THIS WAY," THE SECTION CONCLUDES,  
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ALTHOUGH THE POSITION IS LOWER AND THE POWER LESS, IN FACT IT IS A GREATER SERVICE TO THE TASKS OF THE PARTY."  
--VETERAN CADRES MUST ADAPT TO THE PRESENT OR LOSE THE RESPECT AND SUPPORT OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION. PERSONS WHO SPEND ALL THEIR TIME TALKING ABOUT PAST ACHIEVEMENTS, WHO TREAT OTHERS AS BENEATH THEM, WHO ARE MIRED IN THE PAST AND INSENSITIVE TO NEW THINGS CANNOT INSPIRE OTHERS.  
--VETERAN CADRES NOW IN THE ASCENDANCY MUST GUARD AGAINST ARROGANCE, RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN SHORTCOMINGS, AND REFRAIN FROM DIVISIVE ATTACKS AGAINST OLD ADVERSARIES. IN A SECTION WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN DRAFTED FOR THE PERSONAL REFLECTION OF THE NOTORIOUSLY VINDICTIVE TENG, THE AUTHOR COUNSELS "ONE MUST ESPECIALLY PAY ATTENTION TO UNITING WITH TOSE WHO INCORRECTLY OPPOSED ONESELF...MUST NOT HARBOR HATRED FOR THOSE WHO RECTIFIED ONESELF IN THE PAST WHEN THESE COMRADES HAVE SERIOUSLY CORRECTED THEIR MISTAKES... ONE WOULD NOT PURSUE THOSE

WHO HAVE INCORRECTLY CRITICIZED IN THE PAST."

6. AMIDST THE APPEALS FOR CONCILIATION AND COMPROMISE THERE ARE A FEW VEILED WARNINGS AIMED AT POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS OF THE "WIND FACTION" STRIPE. SUCH PERSONS ARE DEPICTED AS "THE MOST UNRELIABLE," THE ANTITHESIS OF TENG'S IDEAL COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER WHO "SEEKS TRUTH FROM FACTS." BUT EVEN THESE REFERENCES DO NOT SEEM OMINOUS. THERE IS NO SENSE IN THE ARTICLE THAT AN ASSAULT AGAINST SUCH PERSONS IS CONTEMPLATED.

7. THE AUTHOR, HEROES, AND INTENDED READERSHIP OF THIS ARTICLE ARE ALL VETERAN CADRES. CHAIRMAN MAO'S TEACHINGS ARE CITED AS THE BASIC SOURCE FOR ALL CADRES; CHOU EN-LAI IS HELD UP AS THE BEST EXAMPLE FOR EMULATION; CHU TEH IS PRAISED FOR HIS STRAIGHTFORWARD OPPOSITION TO CHANG KUO-TAO; AND CURRENT PARTY VICE CHAIRMEN YEH AND TENG ARE APPLAUDED FOR THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTEMPORARY INSIGHTS. "MIDDLE-AGED" PARTY CHAIRMAN AND PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG RATES ONLY PASSING MENTION, AND THEN MERELY FOR HIS 11TH PARTY CONGRESS "CALL": "OLD CADRES MUST WITH THE GREATEST ENTHUSIASM HELP YOUNG AND MIDDLE-AGED CADRES..."  
WOODCOCK

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## Message Attributes

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